

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (CANCELED).

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An isolated or a purified protein involved in the virulence of a *Leishmania* parasite, comprising at least one site (Cys-Gly-His-Cys) identical to a potential active site of a protein from a protein disulfide-isomerase family (PDI), wherein said ~~protein is predominantly expressed in the most virulent isolates of the parasite~~ isolated or purified protein has sequence SEQ ID NO:2.

3-17. (CANCELED).

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An ~~immunogenic composition~~ isolated or purified protein according to claim ~~16~~ 2, having a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation for administration to a human or animal host.

19-53. (CANCELED).